



NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Communications Division

Mica Perry, Communications Director

317.232.1292 or mperry@cji.in.gov

Rachel Meyer, Communications Manager

317.232.7610 or rmeyer@cji.in.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2007

27 Youth Selected to Participate in the Indiana Point of Youth Program

Indianapolis, IN. – The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) today announced the selection of 27 Hoosier youth for the 2007-2008 Indiana Point of Youth (POY) class. As POY members, the group will focus on legislation designed to improve the quality of life for Indiana residents.

A part of ICJI's Substance Abuse Services division, POY is a youth led advisory group that lends advice to the Governor, Indiana General Assembly and other policy-makers on substance abuse, underage drinking, and general public safety matters. POY members also work in collaborative force to develop and implement comprehensive action plans tailored to address the needs of their respective communities.

In July 2007, ICJI hosted a three day retreat where POY students were charged with the task of establishing their priority areas for the year. Under the guidance of adult advisors the youth collectively decided to focus on reducing underage drinking, and the use of Methamphetamines. Additionally, the group made combating the abuse of prescription and over the counter drugs top priorities on their agenda.

“By building on what their predecessors have accomplished, this year's group has the potential to be our most active and successful class yet,” said Mike Cunegin, executive director of ICJI. “They are among Indiana's brightest and most passionate youth. I am honored to participate in the process of shaping tomorrow's great leaders.”

After establishing priority areas, the students initiated the process of incorporating their ideas into a Statewide Action Plan (SWAP). The SWAP will be the document that guides this group of youth into action for the 2007-2008 program year. POY students will implement the SWAP at state and local levels. POY students will also work together on both individual and group community service projects related to underage drinking and substance abuse.

101 West Washington Street • Suite 1170 • Indianapolis, IN. 46204 • 317.232.1233

Mike Cunegin, Executive Director

www.in.gov/cji



NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Communications Division

Mica Perry, Communications Director

317.232.1292 or mperry@cji.in.gov

Rachel Meyer, Communications Manager

317.232.7610 or rmeyer@cji.in.gov

Founded in 1998, POY was created to encourage youth across the state to take an active role in shaping policy for alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention initiatives. The 27 members that make up the 2007-2008 class represent 19 counties throughout Indiana. They are a diverse group from all regions of Indiana and represent both rural and urban communities. The members range in age from 14-17 years old.

Attached is a list of the 2007-2008 POY class. For more information on POY, or for information on how Indiana teens can get involved, please call (317) 232-1292 or visit www.in.gov/cji.

###

101 West Washington Street • Suite 1170 • Indianapolis, IN. 46204 • 317.232.1233

Mike Cunegin, Executive Director

www.in.gov/cji

**Indiana Point of Youth: Developing Advocates for Safe Communities –
Member Roster for 2007-2008**

	Student Name		County	High School
1.	Whitney	Ames	Clay	Clay City Jr./Sr. High School
2.	Jennifer	Cox	Hendricks	Cascade High School
3.	Audrey	Crane	Greene	Eastern Greene Jr./Sr. High School
4.	Shelby	Crone	Newton	North Newton Jr./Sr. High School
5.	Brenden	Davidson	Greene	White River Valley Jr./Sr. High School
6.	Jamie	Davis	Henry	Blue River Valley Jr./Sr. High School
7.	Cori	Fields	Pike	Pike Central High School
8.	Kalee	Forrester	Morgan	Mooreville High School
9.	Michael	Frank	Franklin	Franklin County High School
10.	Amy	Gibson	Jackson	Seymour High School
11.	Matthew	Janeway	Putnam	South Putnam Jr./Sr. High School
12.	Lauren	Lee	Morgan	Mooreville High School
13.	Sherry	Link	Vermillion	South Vermillion High School
14.	Ashley	Polen	Pike	Pike Central High School
15.	Courtney	Rainford	Newton	North Newton Jr./Sr. High School
16.	Elizabeth	Reger	Hancock	Eastern Hancock High School
17.	Monique	Richard	Clay	Clay City Jr./Sr. High School
18.	Kyle	Roach	Henry	New Castle High School
19.	Elizabeth	Roper	Hamilton	Hamilton Heights High School
20.	Brandy	Selleck	Cass	Logansport High School
21.	Anna	Staszewski	St. Joseph	Washington High School
22.	Michael	Timm	Laporte	Michigan City High School
23.	Hannah	Tina	Tipton	Tipton High School
24.	Shalonda	White	St. Joseph	Washington High School
25.	Ben	Woodworth	Johnson	Indian Creek High School
26.	Eric	Zeltwanger	Marshall	Bremen High School
27.	Jessey	Ziebach	Pike	Pike Central High School